UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1981/C.1/SR.3
3 June 1981
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

First regular session, 1981

FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 22 April 1981, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. KOMATINA (Yugoslavia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

POPULATION QUESTIONS (A/36/117; E/1981/13 and E/1981/40; E/1981/C.1/L.1) (continued)

1. Mr. BAUCHARD (France) said that his delegation had listened with interest to the report introduced by Mr. Tabah on the twenty-first session of the Population Commission and agreed with the analysis which he had made regarding population trends and policies. It should be pointed out in particular that the population growth rate had fallen in a growing number of developing countries and that, while the international community could provide support, it was for the States concerned to define the measures to be adopted in that field. It was, however, the qualitative aspects of population phenomena, and in particular the problems raised by faster urban growth, which were distressing and deserved to be studied more closely.

2. His delegation supported the proposed convening of an international population conference. While recognizing that the main cause of population problems continued to be under-development, he believed it essential to do some updating in view of the new international environment. He welcomed the fact that the Secretariat, anticipating the concerns of many delegations, envisaged preparing the conference with the use of existing facilities, without creating a new bureaucracy. The preparation, organization and holding of the conference would have France's full support.

3. Mr. LAZAREVIC (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation was satisfied with the work done by the Population Commission and the general orientation of its activities, especially on such topics as population trends and policies, population and development, interrelationships between social and economic factors and the components of demographic change and the correlation between population, resources, environment and development. In according priority to those topics within the context of the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action adopted at the World Population Conference, the Commission was contributing substantially to the implementation of policy at the national and international levels and to a better understanding of population trends, whether in respect of increasing or decreasing rates of population growth or of the movement of population from rural to urban areas or of the migration of workers across frontiers, a particularly acute problem in Europe and some countries of the Middle East. By undertaking studies on subjects such as fertility and mortality, the Commission had also contributed to knowledge of the various factors which influenced population growth. For those reasons, he believed it essential to make every effort to control rates of population growth in order to make them compatible with national economic potentials. In that regard, he believed that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) was doing extremely useful work which could have an impact on over-all population activities.

4. With regard to the recommendation of the Commission, his delegation supported the draft resolution on the convening of a world population conference in 1984. However, he believed it necessary to specify its mandate and scope and Governments,

(Mr. Lazarevic, Yugoslavia)

experts and representatives of the regional commissions should participate in the preparation of the conference so that all the peculiarities of each region would be fully reflected. With regard to the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action, it seemed preferable to prepare detailed reports only every four years instead of every two years, because the changes which took place over a two-year period were not significant enough.

5. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) said that his delegation had followed with interest the statements made by the Director of the Population Division and the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. He noted that the latest projections indicated that substantial population increase, mainly in the developing countries, would persist, and that the population of those countries would grow by almost 50 per cent between 1980 and 2000. That projection also indicated that in 2025 the population of Africa would triple and that of South Asia would double, while there would be an increase of 150 per cent in Latin America and of almost 50 per cent in China. That would inevitably lead to very serious problems, especially for a number of developing countries with high population densities.

6. The international community was aware of problems such as bad health conditions, unemployment, insufficient food production, inadequate education, lack of housing, rural migration to cities, international migration and dangers to the environment. It had become more aware since the adoption of the World Population Plan of Action in 1974 and had recognized that those problems were critical factors in the implementation of national development plans. It was evident that population problems were not limited to rates of growth, but also included the uneven distribution of population among countries. It should be remembered that recently, in their commitment to the new International Development Strategy, Governments had renewed their resolve to deal with population issues urgently and to accord them the importance they deserved in their over-all development policies. In Bangladesh, there were 1,700 persons per square mile and the rapid rate of population growth was one of the problems currently facing the country. The Government, with the support of UNFPA, had launched a programme of education, employment of women, birth control and other family planning services designed to influence demographic behaviour.

7. The Government of Bangladesh fully supported the recommendation of the Population Commission to convene a world population conference in 1984 in order to give fresh impetus to the World Population Plan of Action. It believed also that the conference should concentrate on selected issues of high priority, within the framework of the existing Plan. At the same time, Governments should study other areas, such as the world distribution of population and related concepts. Governments should co-operate with the bodies of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and experts in preparing the conference. Bangladesh agreed that the Population Commission should act as the preparatory committee for the conference, provided that its meetings were open-ended.

8. Mr. SILWAL (Nepal) said that the report of the Secretary-General on the world population situation in 1981 (A/36/117) was a very useful document which gave an

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(Mr. Silwal, Nepal)

overview of the existing situation at the global and regional levels. The report indicated that, although population growth on the global level was expected to decline marginally by the year 2000, estimates were not encouraging in the case of most developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, where the problem had to be addressed seriously. In that connexion, the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs had stated in the Population Commission that the rapid growth of population had been concentrated in the poorest and most populated regions of the world, while the considerable growth in economic activities had occurred largely in the most affluent regions. Most Governments were aware of the crucial importance of the demographic factor in their economic and social development.

9. His delegation had studied the report of the twenty-first session of the Population Commission (E/1981/13) which indicated that UNFPA had done commendable work in initiating various programmes in several developing countries. Nepal took the greatest interest in that type of initiative because it had profound implications for its long-term development. Census data in Nepal showed an increase in population from 8 million in 1951 to 11.6 million in 1971, and a current annual growth rate of 2.3 per cent. Because of the population pressure on limited cultivable land resources, the demographic situation in Nepal was regarded as serious and it was for that reason that population control was given priority in Nepal's six-year plan. The Government had adopted a policy of intensifying family planning programmes and other methods with a view to ensuring a steady decline in fertility.

10. In conclusion, his delegation supported the proposal to convene a world population conference in 1984. That conference should concentrate on priority issues and, while reviewing the achievements during the 10 years since the Bucharest Conference, it should focus on concrete measures to stimulate regional and international co-operation.

10. Mr. KALACHINSKY (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) recalled that population problems were inseparable from economic and social problems in general and could be solved only by taking into account the special characteristics of each country. His own country had managed to find a solution to those problems despite the slaughter of the Second World War and the destruction of hundreds of towns and thousands of villages. It had, however, taken all the determination and courage of the Byelorussian people to make up those losses and 30 years to overcome the drop in population. His delegation believed therefore that any solution of population problems must necessarily include total elimination of the massacres of human beings and of the destruction of national wealth.

11. With regard to his country's demographic experience, it was Byelorussia's economic, scientific and cultural successes that had paved the way for its success, particularly with regard to life expectancy which had been 37 and a half years in 1917 and was now 71 years. The comprehensive programme of measures adopted at the twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party with a view to raising the standard of living and cultural level of the country's population demonstrated, once again, if there was any need to, the importance which the State attached to the population's welfare.

(Mr. Kalachinsky, Byelorussian SSR)

12. His delegation could endorse the report of the Population Commission on its twenty-first session and welcomed the fact that the Commission had confirmed the continuing relevance and validity of the principles set forth in the World Population Plan of Action adopted in 1974. With regard to the draft resolution on the convening of a world population conference in 1984, his Government believed that such a conference would contribute very little towards solving population problems, the important point being to implement the recommendations already formulated. If the conference did take place, therefore, it should be financed solely from extrabudgetary resources.

13. Mr. STEVENS (Belgium) recalled that his Government, having concerned itself primarily with the population problems of the third world, was now preoccupied with the more recent problems of Belgium, the causes of which were the reverse of those of the third world. In Belgium, the fertility rate had dropped to 16 per thousand, well below the minimum threshhold of 21 per thousand needed to keep the population at its current level. The gradual aging of Belgium's population was disquieting for it jeopardized the people's capacity for innovation and initiative and hence its future growth. His delegation therefore welcomed the proposal to convene another world population conference in 1984 in order to adapt the Bucharest Plan of Action to changes in States' perceptions of population problems and to regional peculiarities. The preparatory work for the Conference, which now more than ever demanded a multidisciplinary scientific approach, should not be restricted to analysing different population behaviours but should also include studying the interrelationships between the factors and the various consequences of population trends. His country endorsed the Population Commission's firm intention of holding a short, low-cost conference and supported the second and third draft resolutions, while recommending the greatest possible caution with regard to the financial implications of the provisions of the draft resolution on the programme of work in the field of population.

14. Mr. MURIITHI (Kenya) commended the Population Commission on its report and supported the recommendations contained therein. Population control was a controversial issue in Africa. Kenya had one of the highest population growth rates in the world (from 3.2 per cent at independence to 4 per cent in 1980) and official population policy, as set forth in the Fourth National Development Plan (1979-1983) acknowledged that decisions which parents took with regard to the size of their families must be influenced by education. Such an exercise required tremendous financial resources and trained manpower.

15. The population problems of the developing countries were structural in nature and tended to constrain the implementation of their development plans. It was encouraging to note therefore that the Population Commission had addressed itself to the interrelationships between population and development and to the integration of demographic factors into national and international development strategies. His delegation was convinced that the World Population Plan of Action would be strengthened by the convening of a world population conference in 1984, preceded by interregional meetings of experts in 1983. In order to overcome their population problems, the developing countries needed to draw on the experience acquired by the United Nations system in population control and on increased

(Mr. Muriithi, Kenya)

assistance from the developed countries. His delegation therefore supported the three draft resolutions in the Commission's report, which gave the various organs of the United Nations system the necessary legal authority to intensify their population activities.

16. Mr. TURYANSKIY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) recalled that population questions were a matter of national and international importance and that population data were useful for planning economic and social development. It should be noted that in its report the Population Commission recognized the continuing relevance of the principles and objectives set forth in the World Plan of Action adopted at Bucharest in 1974, and States must continue to implement the provisions of that Plan.

17. The exacerbation of numerous current socio-economic problems was frequently blamed on rapid population growth or other biological, geographical or psychological factors. History had shown, however, that it was not population growth which determined the basic distribution of material goods but rather that methods of production determined population growth and structure and the rate and direction of social development. As a result, his country was counting on its highly advanced economic development to help it deal successfully with population problems. It was also continuing to take economic and social steps to raise its population's standard of living. It could not, however, resort to coercion in order to limit the birth rate: not only would it be violating the inalienable right of every family and in particular of every woman but it was in fact anxious to increase its population as one of the main ways of increasing its national wealth. At the twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party, the Soviet Government had moreover indicated that it intended over the next five years to increase its assistance to children and to improve the living conditions of working women, notably by establishing day-care centres or boarding schools. Two decrees had also been issued recently on improving the system of family allowances and social welfare in general.

18. With regard to the draft resolution on convening a world population conference in 1984, his delegation had already indicated that it believed it premature to convene such a conference. If the conference did take place, however, it must be financed from existing budgetary appropriations.

19. Mr. ESAN (Nigeria) said that, in its concern at the growth of its population, which already totalled 80 million inhabitants, the Nigerian Government had taken due note of the observations in the report of the Population Commission and the report of the Secretary-General on population trends in sub-Saharan Africa. Recognizing the close link between population and the development process, it was seeking, by its economic development programme, to check the drift of population from the countryside to urban centres which had had the twofold effect of lowering agricultural production and placing undue pressure on economic infrastructures in the cities, quite apart from creating social problems as a result of urban unemployment. In its target of achieving universal primary education and expanding health facilities, his Government was giving serious

(Mr. Esan, Nigeria)

attention to demographic questions and to family planning in particular. Convinced that the success of the Fourth National Development Plan (1981-1985) was dependent on the availability of reliable population data, his Government had taken steps towards conducting a new census. It had recently completed a demographic sample survey and a fertility survey was in progress. His Government still regarded the targets of the World Population Plan of Action as valid, but welcomed the proposal to convene a world population conference in 1984 which would provide an opportunity to bring the Plan of Action into line with the present situation.

20. Mr. NGUA LA (Zaire) felt that, although it was interesting to compare population development in developed and developing countries, it would be preferable to study the causes of the increasing discrepancy. He supported the convening of a world conference in 1984 because, without calling in question the measures recommended by the Bucharest Conference, it would ensure their better implementation by analysing whatever had thus far impeded their application. Zaire was in favour of the three draft resolutions but was prepared to consider any amendment proposed by other delegations.

21. Mr. WAKAGUGI (Japan) noted that his country had demonstrated its interest in the activities of the Population Commission by actively participating in its work since 1958. As a sponsor of draft resolution I, it wished to add a few supplementary proposals. In its view, the Commission was too small to carry out all the preparatory work for the Conference, and one session in 1983 would not be enough to complete it. He therefore proposed that all States should be invited to participate as full members during the preparatory period and that the Commission should hold a special session in 1983. Those proposals could be considered during informal consultations. As for the amendment proposed by the representative of the USSR (E/1981/C.1/L.1), his delegation was convinced that the last sentence of paragraph 1 of draft resolution I was sufficiently moderate to meet the request of the Soviet delegation.

22. Mrs. RAVN (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said their Governments considered that family planning was a human right and that it should be seen as part of an active social policy, especially in the area of public health. Uncontrolled population growth increased the pressure on limited resources, at both the global and the national levels. Besides the differences between developed and developing countries and among developing countries, present trends indicated that the world population would increase from 4 billion to approximately 8 billion in 2020 and to 12 billion in 2040 and that most of the growth would occur in developing countries, which in the year 2025 were likely to account for 85 per cent of the world population. While at one extreme some developing countries had shown a startling decrease in fertility in recent years, many others had such an excess of births over deaths that their population might double in 20 to 25 years, causing great strain on their development efforts unless significant emigration took place. Since the economic situation in those countries was already difficult, the question was whether increased mortality could be avoided.

23. Another problem which required attention was the growth of megacities (now numbering 10, of which six were in developing countries). It was estimated that

(Mrs. Ravn, Norway)

by the end of the century there would be 25 megacities, each with a population of between 15 million and 30 million, which would create enormous problems with respect to sanitation, water supply, housing and employment. Although developed countries could expect a continuing negative natural growth of population, which was causing them concern, the growth of the world population was by far the most serious problem. The United Nations should be prepared to provide assistance to countries which wanted it in tackling their population problems; the developed countries should also provide multilateral and bilateral assistance, as the Nordic Governments had been doing for several decades both directly and through UNFPA. The World Fertility Survey, which had provided much of the information presented in the report of the Population Commission, had been conducted by the International Statistical Institute and financed by grants from UNFPA; the Nordic Governments urged that UNFPA should continue to support that valuable programme.

24. Finally, the Nordic countries unanimously recommended that the 1984 conference should concentrate on a very limited number of issues directed towards the further implementation of the Plan of Action, the principles and objectives of which continued to be fully valid. They supported the designation of the Population Commission as the preparatory committee and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs as co-ordinator of the preparations. Such a conference, more limited in scope and of a more technical nature than the Bucharest Conference, would enhance the possibility of ensuring progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted in 1974.

25. Mr. SHER (Pakistan) noted that the impressive economic gains in a number of developing countries had been neutralized by population growth. According to the report of the Secretary-General on the world population situation in 1981 (A/36/117), 55 developing countries comprising 59 per cent of the world's population were desirous of reducing their natural rate of population growth, whereas some developed countries were concerned about their present low fertility rate. Those problems could not be resolved individually; their solution was therefore a global responsibility of the world community.

26. The primary aim of population planning should not be to restrain population growth in the developing countries but to remove the obstacles to economic and social development. The exploitation of third world countries by the colonial Powers had also contributed to their under-development, and it was therefore the responsibility of the developed countries to provide adequate financial and technical assistance to the developing countries. As the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities had said, the world community should pay special attention to the recommendations of the Willy Brandt independent commission and of the Colombo Plan Declaration for an annual target of $1 billion in international population assistance to be achieved by 1984. To assist developing countries, the developed countries could also do away with their restrictive trade practices.

27. The population of Pakistan would probably double by the year 2000, and the population pyramid and the negligible participation of women in productive employment would place a heavy burden on the economically active population.

(Mr. Sher, Pakistan)

Accordingly, a Population Welfare Plan (1981-1983) had been prepared. It was designed, firstly, to create behavioural change, and, secondly, to overcome limitations in services. The Plan, which reflected a multidisciplinary approach, sought to achieve its objectives through the involvement of the community on a collective basis. It also sought to modify the social system and even proposed measures beyond family planning as such.

28. His delegation hoped that the future World Population Conference would be conducted with the utmost economy and would result in the development of a programme of action aimed at improving the productivity of the human factor.

29. Miss BALI (India) stressed that the three Population Conferences held in 1954, 1964 and 1974 had been instrumental in focusing world attention on the importance of demographic issues. Her delegation therefore felt that a 1984 conference was needed to take stock of the progress achieved and to strengthen implementation of the World Plan of Action adopted at the Bucharest Conference. Her delegation was also in favour of the provision in draft resolution I of the Population Commission to assign the role of preparatory committee for the 1984 conference to the Commission. India welcomed the concern for economy reflected in the wording of the two draft resolutions and supported them.

STATISTICAL QUESTIONS (E/1981/12) (continued)

30. Mr. JOSEPH (Australia) paid tribute to the United Nations Statistical Office which was called upon to play a pre-eminent role in the setting of international statistical standards. Substantively, there was, in his view, a need to strive for greater consistency among international statistical standards issued by the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies and the Organization had an important task to accomplish in that field. As an illustration, he referred first to the case of international trade in commodities. The United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO) had developed a new set of standards relating to such trade which was inconsistent with the System of National Accounts also issued by UNSO. As the System of National Accounts was in the course of being reviewed, his delegation wondered whether finalization of the new international trade standards should not be deferred in order to achieve consistency with the revised System of National Accounts. If there were good practical reasons for failing to achieve such consistency, his delegation would like to know them and to know how data should be recorded in order to compile statistics complying with both systems. The second inconsistency lay between the United Nations System of National Accounts and the IMF Balance of Payments Manual. Other organizations should endeavour to achieve consistency with the United Nations standards.

31. His delegation felt that the proposals made in 1980 by the expert group might be a little ambitious. They certainly would constitute a very heavy workload, if pursued, for national statistical offices, to the detriment of other pressing demands. Furthermore, Australia believed that some of the proposed extensions of data collection in such fields as environmental protection and the use of natural resources would not be efficacious; they would divert the Statistical Office from its primary functions. Finally, Australia welcomed the work done by the

(Mr. Joseph, Australia)

Statistical Commission in January in seeking to establish a scale of priorities for the various projects included in the work programme of the Statistical Office. However, his delegation regretted that the Commission had been unable to identify completed, obsolete, marginally useful or ineffective activities in the proposed work programme.

32. Mr. MARDOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), after paying tribute to members of the Statistical Commission and the Statistical Office for the important and valuable tasks they had accomplished in many areas, said that his delegation felt however, that the United Nations Statistical Office should give greater attention to the compilation of environmental and energy statistics, the development of the System of National Accounts, the achievement of consistency between that system and the System of Balances of the National Economy, the harmonization of international classification standards and the preparation of methods and standards for collecting information in various sectors of the national economy. The Byelorussian SSR also felt that it was important to establish a unified international system of economic classification and that to do so would require deeper research into the specifics of United Nations, CMEA and EEC classification systems and the differences between them, while paying due attention to specific conditions existing in developing countries.

33. UNSO should also identify its efforts in the field of environmental statistics, in order to develop a comprehensive statistical data collecting and processing system. It would also be necessary when preparing such projects to draw fully on the experience of various countries, in particular, on the very rich experience of socialist countries. Developing countries were not benefiting as much as they might from such experience; the personnel of socialist countries were not sufficiently called upon to meet technical co-operation needs. The Byelorussian SSR also felt that in order to increase the number of United Nations statistical activities, research in sectors deemed less important by the Statistical Commission should be limited. Such limitation would affect studies on national practices relating to classification by type and size of agglomerations and of urban and rural areas. Duplication and overlapping should be avoided and outdated publications should be eliminated. His delegation considered finally that the recommendations of the Statistical Commission would have a positive influence on future statistical activities and therefore approved the Commission's report.

34. Mr. BRECHER (United States of America) said that his delegation had consistently commended the Commission's work in developing standards which facilitated the international comparison of national statistics, the co-ordination of the statistical work of the specialized agencies and the improvement of national statistics in important fields. He hailed the election, for the first time, of a United States representative as Chairman of the Commission. The United States supported the adoption of the two resolutions recommended by the Statistical Commission and supported the request of the Commission to extend the ninth session of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination to four days.

(Mr. Brecher, United States)

35. The discussion during the twenty-first session of the Commission had suggested that the Commission should adopt a more future-oriented approach. Accordingly, the Commission had requested the Working Group to determine special topics of importance to be taken up at future sessions. By expanding the functions of the Working Group to consider issues of detail and some routine aspects of the Commission's work, the Commission could concentrate its attention on the short-term and long-term plans. His delegation was pleased to note that the Commission would be considering at its next session two specific questions, namely, the statistical use of administrative files and information technology.

36. Mr. YEVLOKIMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), while recalling the importance and value of the work of the Statistical Commission, said that particular attention should be given to making the experience of census organization possessed by a number of countries, among them the Soviet Union, available to the developing countries. However, in order to improve the efficiency of the work of the Statistical Commission and Office, his delegation proposed that the Office should expedite the setting-up of an environmental statistics system, promote the development of energy statistics, and give greater importance to improving the consistency of the System of National Accounts and the System of Balances of the National Economy. That considerable task would be greatly facilitated by more active participation from the Conference of European Statisticians and the equivalent organs of the other regional commissions. Also, in the preparation of population statistics, greater emphasis should be laid on co-ordinating the statistics of countries with differing systems. Work should also be continued to refine classification systems and nomenclatures by eliminating certain secondary questions and by taking greater account, in the elaboration of recommendations in that field as in others, of the needs and possibilities of developing countries together with the successful experience of certain countries, and especially the socialist countries, which were particularly well-versed in the co-ordination of national statistics for the purposes of economic and social development planning. The Soviet Union, specifically, produced a large number of useful publications on a variety of statistical questions.

37. In order to make the work of the United Nations in that field more efficient, it was necessary to improve publications dealing with statistical questions, to avoid duplication, to make better use of data produced by the various countries and to eliminate publications containing outdated information. Unfortunately, the documents produced by the Statistical Office did not always pay sufficient attention to the experience of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, and particularly to the assistance which they offered in that field to developing countries. There were also inaccuracies in the statistical data on the socialist countries submitted to the Commission at its twenty-first session.

38. The activities envisaged by the Statistical Office should be financed from existing budgetary appropriations and should not involve any additional expenditure. The work of the Statistical Commission and Office should be directed towards promoting the development of an international statistics system and, through the drawing up of priority programmes, towards co-ordinating the activities of the specialized agencies and other international organizations in the statistical

(Mr. Yevdokeyev, USSR)

field. Subject to the aforegoing remarks, the Soviet delegation would not oppose the adoption of the Statistical Commission's report on its twenty-first session.

39. Mr. RUSO (Finland), speaking on behalf of the five delegations of the Nordic countries, congratulated Mr. Nordbotten and his staff on their excellent work in preparing for the last meeting of the Statistical Commission as well as for the current session of the Economic and Social Council. At its last session, the Commission had paid much attention to increasing the effectiveness of its work. Particular emphasis had been laid on co-ordinating the Commission's functions with those of other United Nations bodies. Improved technology had also enabled the processing of statistical information to be increasingly integrated with that of administrative records and other information. In view of the breadth of the issue, the Nordic delegations wished to limit their remarks to the following four points. First, they welcomed the fact that the specific problems of the developing countries had been taken into consideration in the discussion of each statistical question. The Nordic countries were prepared to share their experience, in particular in connexion with civil registration statistics, with the developing countries. Secondly, the promising work recently started on environment statistics should justify considering seriously the allocation of resources to enable it to be organized on a regular basis. Thirdly, the Statistical Commission should give increased attention to the extremely rapid development of new data processing and communication technologies, especially from the point of view of their implications for development activities and the rationalization of administrative procedures. Finally, the Nordic delegations welcomed the progress made in establishing the National Household Survey Capability Programme.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMEN

40. The CHAIRMAN announced that, following informal consultations in the regional groups, Miss Zanabria (Peru) and Mr. Vich (Turkey) had been proposed as candidates for the posts of Vice-Chairmen.

41. Miss Zanabria and Mr. Vich were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

42. Mr. VORONIN (Secretary of the Committee) pointed out two errors in document E/1981/C.1/L.1: first, the document related to item 14 and not item 13 of the agenda; and, secondly, in the Russian and Spanish versions the auxiliary should of the final verb of the proposed replacement paragraph had been translated by a future tense.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.